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WATCH
FOR
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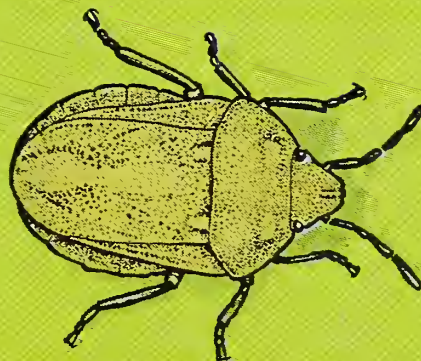


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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

the SENN PEST



The Senn Pest

The senn pest¹ is not known to occur in the United States. It may get in. If it does, and if it becomes established, it will cause serious crop damage and financial loss. Watch for this insect and for any other insects you do not recognize. Report them promptly so they may be identified, controlled, and possibly eradicated.

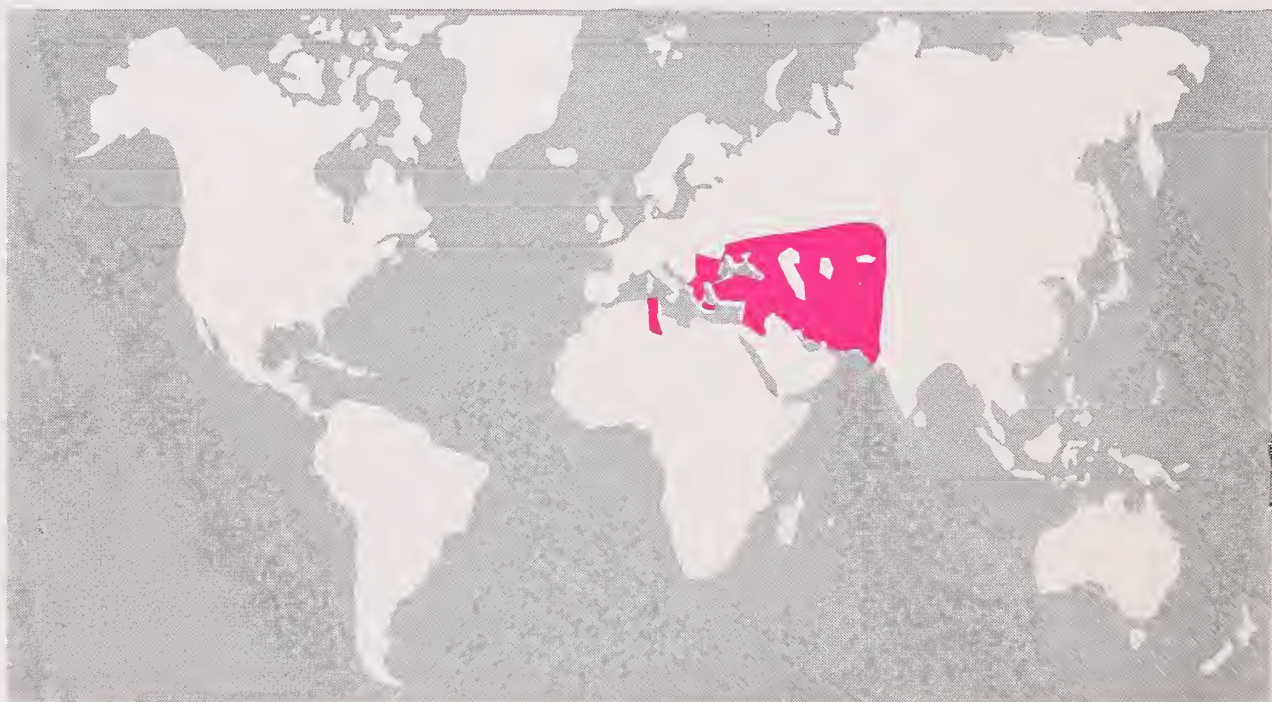
The senn pest is an insect that damages both stems and kernels of grain in the Near East. Its damage to stems often causes the loss of more than 25 percent of the stand. A population of only two or three of these insects per square yard, attacking the kernels, can cause loss of the entire crop.

This pest reduces the baking quality of flour by introducing enzymes

into the grain. It attacks wheat, barley, rye, oats, sorghum, other grasses, and clover, flax, and weeds. In Iraq, in some seasons, the senn pest has caused more damage than grasshoppers. In Iran, it has destroyed the entire wheat crop.

The senn pest attacks crops that are important to our agricultural economy. In the United States, in 1960, we planted 55½ million acres in wheat, producing 1⅓ billion bushels. We planted more than 15½ million

¹ *Eurygaster integriceps*.



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Geographic distribution. Red areas indicate parts of the world where the senn pest occurs.

acres in barley, more than 4 million acres in rye, 32½ million acres in oats, and 15½ million acres in sorghums. The senn pest attacks all these crops. If it became established here, it could cause tremendous loss.

DESCRIPTION OF INSECT

The senn pest is a typical stink bug about one-half inch long. The body is oval and is convex on top; it is yellowish brown and has small, black spots usually arranged in a pattern of linear markings. The head is triangular, rounded in front, and is broader than it is long; it has two parallel longitudinal grooves. On the back is a scutellum, or shield, which is very large and longer than the abdomen, which it almost covers. A yellow line runs along two-thirds of the midline of the scutellum. At the base of the scutellum are two raised, yellow spots.

DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE

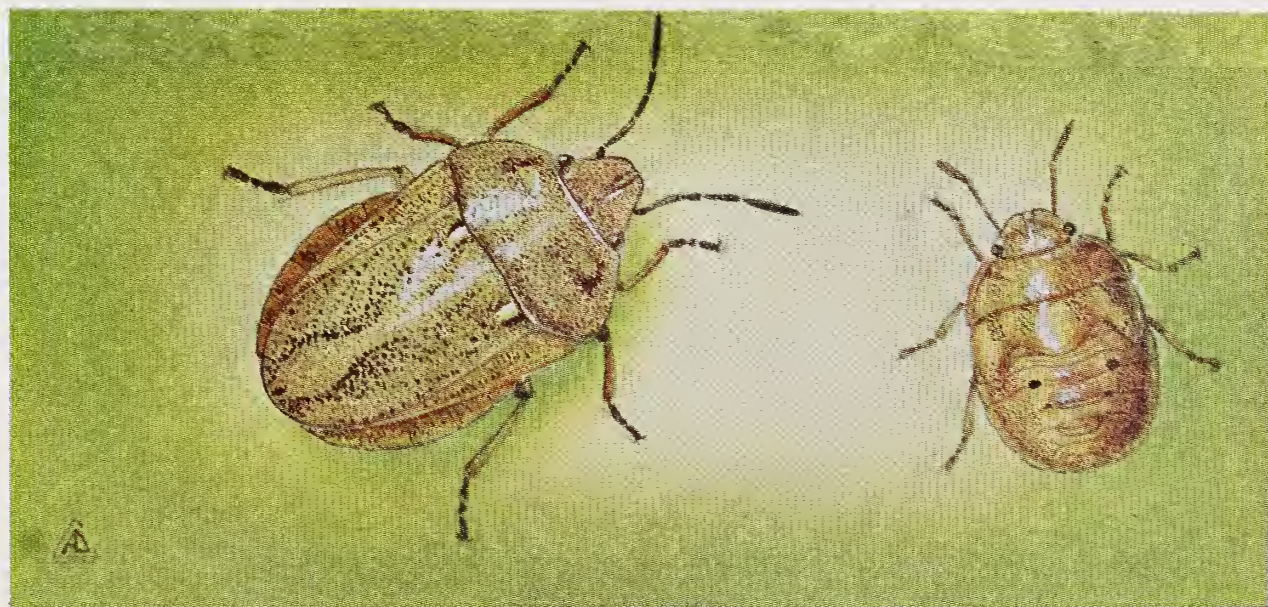
The principal damage is caused by the insect sucking out the plant



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Damage to wheat kernels caused by the senn pest.

juices. Adults feed on the young plants; both adults and nymphs attack the grain kernels. When young plants are attacked, they wilt and fail to develop. When the kernels are attacked, they fail to fill out.



The senn pest. Left, adult; right, nymph. Enlarged.

The Plant Pest Problem

At least half of our most destructive insects entered the United States from other countries, many before the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912 was passed. Today, thousands of plant pests are intercepted at our borders by plant quarantine inspectors, but some of them still gain entry.

When a new pest is detected,

organized efforts are exerted to (1) pinpoint the areas where it has become established, (2) set up quarantines to prevent spread, and (3) to control the pest and eradicate it if possible. The sooner a new pest is detected, the better is the chance of controlling or eradicating it before it does serious damage.

What You Can Do

Watch for the senn pest. If it should gain entry here, the adults probably would appear in spring on young plants, or both adults and nymphs would appear during the early growing season. Very likely, all nymphs would become adults by the end of June. There is only one generation a year in known areas of infestation. Overwintering adults would hibernate in the soil around the roots of grasses in hilly sections, and under litter in valleys; they would migrate to the fields in spring.

If you find adults or nymphs of stink bugs attacking grain or grasses and do not recognize the species, send specimens to your nearest agricultural official. Mail them in a small bottle containing rubbing alcohol. Include a note giving your name and address, and telling where the specimens were found and on what plant. Do not send live specimens. If your local agricultural official does not recognize the specimens, he will send them to the proper authorities for identification.



Prepared by
Plant Pest Control Division
Agricultural Research Service

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